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CIA Chief May Be Asked To Testify

Special to The Times-Union
Buffalo — Defense counsel in the case against an international trio accused of illegally exporting seven World War II bombers to Portugal may try to subpoena the director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Edwin Marger, attorney for John Richard Hawke, a Briton, said Richard Helm was among several important witnesses needed to prove his contention that the flights were carried out with the consent and help of the CIA.

Other witnesses to be sought by the defense include Richard M. Bissell, former deputy director of planning for the CIA; Arthur Schlesinger Jr., a former special assistant to President Kennedy, and Martin Caiden, an author and aviation expert.

OTHER DEFENDANTS on trial here are Count Henrie De Montmarin, a French aircraft broker, and Woodrow Wilson Roderick, a Canadian said to have been the middleman in the operation.

Also named in the indictment was Gregory R. Board, the owner of an airplane rental company in Tucson, Ariz. Board is living on the island of Jamaica and is not standing trial.

The indictment charges the defendants conspired to violate the Munitions Control Act, which prohibits the importing or exporting of military equipment without a State Department license.

The subpoenaing of Bissell and Schlesinger, Marger said, will be part of his strategy in proving that the CIA has illegally transported warplanes out of this country in the past to carry out secret policy.

The appearance of Schlesinger, Marger said, was to prove that it was "politically necessary at times for the United States to say one thing and do another."

The U.S. has denied in the United Nations that it knew anything about the flights.

Yesterday a former defendant, Keat E. Griggers, 42, of Jamestown, Calif., testified he "was led to believe the aircraft were to be used in Mozambique and Angola."

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